

Under the provisions of Section 413.031 of the Texas Workers' Compensation Act, Title 5, Subtitle A of the Texas Labor Code, effective June 17, 2001 and Commission Rule 133.305, titled Medical Dispute Resolution-General, and 133.307, titled Medical Dispute Resolution of a Medical Fee Dispute, a review was conducted by the Medical Review Division regarding a medical fee dispute between the requestor and the respondent named above.

I. DISPUTE

1.
 - a. Whether there should be additional reimbursement for date of service 08/17/01?
 - b. The request was received on 05/15/02.

II. EXHIBITS

1. Requestor, Exhibit 1:
 - a. TWCC-60
 - b. HCFA
 - c. EOB
 - d. Medical Records
 - e. Any additional documentation submitted was considered, but has not been summarized because the documentation would not have affected the decision outcome.
2. Respondent, Exhibit 2:
 - a. TWCC-60
 - b. Any additional documentation submitted was considered, but has not been summarized because the documentation would not have affected the decision outcome.
3. The dispute packet contains only the original request from the provider and the carrier's 3-day response. This findings and decision will be based on this documentation.

III. PARTIES' POSITIONS

1. Requestor: per the TWCC-60b
"Patient was referred for the work hardening program. Phyciatric [sic] evaluations do not require pre-authorization."
2. Respondent: per the TWCC-60b
"Pre-authorization required but not obtained."

IV. FINDINGS

1. Based on Commission Rule 133.307 (d)(1&2), the only date of service eligible for review is 08/17/01/01.
2. The provider billed \$125.00 (MAR) for CPT code 90830 (psychological testing) on the DOS in dispute.

3. The carrier reimbursed \$0.00 and the EOB has the denial “A – PREAUTHORIZATION REQUIRED BUT NOT OBTAINED.”
4. The amount in dispute is \$125.00.

V. RATIONALE

Texas Workers’ Compensation Act & Rules, Rule 134.600 (h), “The health care treatments and services requiring pre-authorization are: (2) psychiatric or psychological therapy or testing except as a part of work hardening;”

Per the Medical Fee Guideline (MFG), Medicine Ground Rule (MGR) that concerns work hardening Rule (II)(E)(2)(a), “An initial evaluation to determine the injured worker’s readiness for the program may be performed prior to entrance into the program. This evaluation is **not** considered to be part of the Work Hardening program and should be billed **separately**.”

Although the MFG, MGR allows the separate billing of “an initial evaluation”...”prior to entrance into the program.” The MFG, MGR does not suggest that preauthorization is not required per the stated preauthorization rule. The service rendered required preauthorization which was not obtained. Therefore, no reimbursement is recommended.

The above Findings and Decision are hereby issued this 13th day of June, 2002.

Larry Beckham
Medical Dispute Resolution Officer
Medical Review Division

This document is signed under the authority delegated to me by Richard Reynolds, Executive Director, pursuant to the Texas Workers’ Compensation Act, Texas Labor Code Sections 402.041 - 402.042 and re-delegated by Virginia May, Deputy Executive Director.